



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,627	03/06/2002	Bas Ording	P2349-506	4921
Philip W. Marsh BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, MYLINH T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2179				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/04/2011		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/090,627

Applicant(s)

ORDING, BAS

Examiner

MYLINH TRAN

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6,7,9-14,16-25 and 27-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6,7,9-14,16-25 and 27-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/01/2011
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/01/2011 has been entered.

Claims 1, 14, 23-25, 27-29, 31-32, 34-35, 37, 39-40 have been amended. However, the limitations of the amended claims have not been found to be patentable over prior art of record. Therefore, these claims are rejected under the same ground of rejection as set forth in the office action mailed 12/01/2010.

Specification

Claims 23, 34 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The term "computer-readable data storage device" and "computer readable medium" are not defined in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9-14, 16-25 and 27-40 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robertson et al. [US. 6,909,443].

As to claims 1, 14 and 23, Robertson et al. teach computer

implemented method and corresponding apparatus for providing

transition of a graphical user interface element displaying information

on a computer display comprising the GUI element transition between

first GUI element information (all the menu options of the menu bar of

window 484) associated with a first application running on a computer

(window application 484 in a primary area) and second GUI element

information (all the menu options of the menu bar of window 480)

associated with a second application running on the computer (the

window application 480 in a loose stack, column 8, lines 28-45), the

first application (window application 484) being displayed on the

computer display in a first window (column 7, lines 16-40) and the

second application (window application 480) being displayed on the

computer display in a second window (window 480 in the loose stack,

column 7, lines 30-40). This is exactly the same step of transition as

disclosed by the invention drawings of figures 2A-B. All of the menu

options in application 32 is transited to the menu options in application

34 on the display screen of the computer. Although the application 32 is removed from the computer display and replaced by the application 34, the application 32 remains displaying on the computer display. The application 32 just becomes inactive but still displayed on the computer screen.

Robertson et al. teach detecting when the first application is active, a user selection of the second window to make the second application active (column 13, line 53 through column 14, line 13; column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 14; Robertson cited "In FIG. 18A, the user has placed the cursor over window 442, which is located in the primary viewing area. Note that window 442 has focus in FIG. 18A, and as such, most keyboard and pointing device inputs are provided directly to the application corresponding to the focus window");

removing the first GUI element information from the GUI element and replacing the first GUI element information displayed by the GUI element with the second GUI element information (column 13, line 54 through column 14, line 30; Robertson cited "Moving a Window from the Loose Stack to the Primary Viewing Area show selected frames from an animation generated by the present interface when the user wishes to replace a window 484 in the primary viewing area with a window 480 from a loose stack 482. In the embodiment of Table 1, the user initiates this movement by clicking on window 480. Based on this input, the user

interface generates an animation in which window 480 is brought forward from loose stack 482 to the primary viewing area and window 484, which is in the primary viewing area, is moved back to either the loose stack or the ordered stack depending on where it was before being placed in the primary viewing area. For the purposes of FIGS. 22A through 22C, window 484 was in loose stack 482 before being moved to the primary viewing area" (column 17, 48-60);

and in response to detecting the user selection of the first window, providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element information displayed by the GUI element with the second GUI element information by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first GUI element information and second GUI element information (column 12, lines 25-38; Robertson cited "the user interface initiates an animation in which window 490 is pushed backward and rotated slightly to align itself with ordered stack 492." Applicant argued that Robertson fail to teach the first GUI element/second GUI element comprising a first menu bar/ second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application/second application. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees because all windows comprise a task bar including a plurality of options pertaining to functions such as "FILE, EDIT, VIEW...").

As to claims 4 and 16, Robertson et al. teach detecting a change comprising detecting a mouse click event (column 13, line 53 through column 14, line 13); the user selection comprising the user clicking on the second window (column 9, lines 52-65 and column 13, line 53 through column 14, line 13).

As to claims 6-7 and 17, Robertson al. also show when the first application being active and the second application is closed, the opening of the second to make the second application active or when the first application is active and the second application is open, the quitting of the first application to make the second application active (column 21, line 50 through column 22, line 20).

As to claims 9 and 18, Robertson et al. show providing visual notification being configured to render rotation animation graphics (column 12, lines 30-45).

As to claims 10 and 19, Robertson et al. show providing visual notification being configured to render scrolling animation graphics (column 12, lines 30-65).

As to claims 11-13 and 20-22, Robertson et al. show animation graphics comprising three-dimensional animation graphics, the three-dimensional animation graphics comprising animation graphics utilizing gray scales and the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scale to virtual lighting effect because Robertson teaches the animated

transition between two windows in a three dimensional structure (column 12, lines 30-38).

As to claims 24-25 and 27, Robertson et al. teach the GUI element comprising a menu bar, the first GUI element information comprising a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application; the second GUI element information comprising a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and the step of replacing comprising retrieving the second GUI element information for the menu bar and displaying the retrieved information at appropriate locations for the menu bar (column 13, line 53 through column 14, line 33).

As to claims 28, 31 and 34, Robertson et al. teach detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on the computer's operating system GUI (column 9, lines 52-65 and column 13, line 53 through column 14, line 13) and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI (column 9, lines 23-50); and in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the

display of the first menu bar information and the second menu information (column 13, lines 53-65).

Robertson teach the step of removing first menu bar information associated with the first application being displayed by the menu bar in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI and replacing the first menu bar information with second menu bar information associated with the second application (column 14, lines 20-33);

As to claims 29, 32 and 35, Robertson teach the first menu bar information including a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, the second menu bar information including a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and the step of replacing comprising retrieving the second menu bar information and displaying the retrieved information at appropriate locations for the second menu bar information in the menu bar (column 13, lines 53 through column 14, line 32).

As to claims 30, 33 and 36, Robertson teaches the menu bar space being separate from each of the first and second windows (column 11, lines 18-40).

As to claim 37, Robertson teaches the first GUI element information being associated with a first application running on a computer, the

second GUI element information being associated with a second application running on the computer (column 9, lines 18-30), the first application being displayed on the display device in a first area, said first area being a first window (column 9, line 65 through column 10, line 15), the second application being displayed on the display device in a second area, said second area being a second window (column 9, lines 18-30), and the GUI element (column 10, lines 40-58) being displayed within a third area of the display device (column 12, lines 25-35), the method comprising:

detecting, when the first application is active, a user-selection of the second window, said user-selection being received from a data entry device (column 9, lines 52-65 and column 13, line 53 through column 14, line 13); making, based on said detection of the user-selection, the second application active (column 13, lines 52-67); removing the first GUI element information from the GUI element in the third area of the computer display (column 14, lines 35-65); and replacing the first GUI element information removed from the GUI element (column 15, line 60 through column 16, line 25) with the second GUI element (column 9, lines 20-45).

As to claim 38, Robertson teach the step of detecting when the first application is active, user selection of the second window to make the second application active (column 9, lines 52-65 and column 13, line 53

through column 14, line 13) and making the second application active includes bringing the second window to the foreground of the display device (column 13, lines 54-30).

As to claim 39, Robertson teaches replacing the first GUI element information including providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element information with the second GUI element information by rendering on the display device animation graphics of the third area transitioning between the display of the first GUI element information and the second GUI element information (column 12, lines 25-40).

As to claim 40, Robertson teaches the GUI element being a menu bar that is separate from each of the first and second windows; the first GUI element information comprising a first menu bar selection having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, and the second GUI element information comprising a second menu bar selections having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application (column 10, lines 40-60).

Response to Arguments

Applicant has argued that Robertson fails to teach the feature of “removing from the computer display the first GUI element associated with the first application and replacing the first GUI element with the

corresponding, second GUI element associated with the second application". However, the examiner respectfully disagrees because Robertson cited "Moving a Window from the Loose Stack to the Primary Viewing Area show selected frames from an animation generated by the present interface when the user wishes to replace a window 484 in the primary viewing area with a window 480 from a loose stack 482. In the embodiment of Table 1, the user initiates this movement by clicking on window 480. Based on this input, the user interface generates an animation in which window 480 is brought forward from loose stack 482 to the primary viewing area and window 484, which is in the primary viewing area, is moved back to either the loose stack or the ordered stack depending on where it was before being placed in the primary viewing area. For the purposes of FIGS. 22A through 22C, window 484 was in loose stack 482 before being moved to the primary viewing area" (column 17, 48-60).

Applicant has argued that Robertson fails to teach the feature of "any correspondence between the current task and the selected task object". However, Robertson cited "FIGS. 20A through 20C show separate frames of an animation created by the present user interface when the user wishes to replace the window in the primary viewing area with a window on the ordered stack. In FIG. 20A, the user has positioned a cursor 462 over a window 464 in an ordered stack 466. With the cursor

in this position, the user indicates their desire to replace window 468 of the primary viewing area with window 464." (column 16, lines 60-66). It is clear that in Robertson there is a relationship (correspondence) between a current window and a selected window.

Applicant has argued that Robertson fails to teach the feature of "detecting...user selection of the second window to make the second application active" neither teach "detecting, when the first application is active and the second application is closed, the opening of the second application to make the second application active". However, Robertson cited "In FIG. 18A, the user has placed the cursor over window 442, which is located in the primary viewing area. Note that window 442 has focus in FIG. 18A, and as such, most keyboard and pointing device inputs are provided directly to the application corresponding to the focus window." It is clear that the focus window is an active window while another window is closed.

Applicant has argued that Robertson fails to teach the feature of "rotation/scrolling animation graphics". However, Robertson cited "the user interface initiates an animation in which window 490 is pushed backward and rotated slightly to align itself with ordered stack 492."

Applicant argued that Robertson fail to teach the first GUI element/second GUI element comprising a first menu bar/ second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated

with the first application/second application. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees because all windows comprise a task bar including a plurality of options pertaining to functions such as "FILE, EDIT, VIEW...".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

Art Unit 2179

/TuyetLien T Tran/
Examiner, Art Unit 2179